

October 10, 2014

# Weekly Views

During the Indiana Criminal Justice Association's fall conference in Indianapolis, three law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice were honored for their service as the 2014 Law Enforcement Officers of the Year. Memorial plaques were presented to the family members and fellow officers of Officer Jacob Daniel Calvin, Tipton County Sheriff's Department; Officer Perry Renn, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department; and Officer Jeffrey Brady Westerfield, Gary Police Department.

The annual IDOC Commissioner's Awards and ICJA awards were announced during the ICJA fall conference. Among the Commissioner's Award winners were: Ken Davenport, Human Resources Employee of the Year; Mary Ann

Jobe, Industries Professional of the Year; Jennifer Sims, Parole Agent of the Year; Johanna Amefia-Koffi, Chaplain of the Year; Jeff Pyle, Physical Plant Employee of the Year; Christine Smith, Reentry Employee of the Year; Shirley Starkey, Administrative Support of the Year; Drew Adams, Supervisor of the Year; Tony Gray, Rising Star Award; Pam Ferguson, Correctional Professional of the Year; Tammy Prewitt, Employee of the Year; Randy Koester, Distinguished Service Award; and Debbie & Sonny Faulkenberg, Commissioner's Award of Valor. The ICJA Award winners included: Allen County Superior Court Judge John Surbeck, Judge of the Year; Indiana Sex Offender Management & Monitoring Program, Program of the Year; Juan Andrade, Probation Officer of Year; Roger Hayward, Volunteer of the Year; Dan Ward and Ryan Matthys, Parole Officers of the Year; Brandy Simpson, Support Services Staff of Year; Margie Wagner and Amanda Dehart, Correctional Educators of the Year; Doug Huyvaert, Correctional Manager of the Year; Ladonna Thorpe, Community Corrections Line Staff of the Year; and Sergeant Jonathan Hendrickson, Correctional Officer of the Year.

The South Bend Community Reentry Center (SBCRC) is pleased to announce the successful outcome of the facility's first "Meet Me at Potato Creek" event. The event was held in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Potato Creek State Park in North Liberty, IN. Residents from SBCRC, who were previously or are currently employed by the DNR, met with family and friends to enjoy nature and wildlife at Potato Creek State Park. For the past seven years, SBCRC residents have performed mowing operations, mechanical repairs, storm cleanups, repainted signs, reroofed structures, repaired park furniture, maintained trails, and replaced the pier on Lake Worster.

PEN Central Office hosted a Flu Shot Clinic. Twenty-nine staff from the Indianapolis Reentry Correctional Facility (IREF) and PEN participated in the clinic provided by Kroger Pharmacy. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages all citizens to take action to protect themselves and others from influenza (flu), including taking the time to get a flu vaccine and everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of germs.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The celebration included a cookout, a commemorative book and the dedication of a memorial rock. The facility began training staff on October 3, 1994. There are 12 original staff members still employed at that facility.

The Therapeutic Community (TC) at Westville Correctional Facility is supporting Prevent Child Abuse America by donating more than \$450 to the organization. With over 600 inmates, Westville's TC is the largest such unit in the nation.

Forty members from the Covenant Choir which is a choir sharing God's love in prisons, rescue missions, retirement and juvenile centers came to the Indiana State Prison. The choir is from northern Indiana and is a group of individuals of various ages, vocations, and churches.

Miami Correctional Facility was recognized for donating the most money this year at the ICJA Conference's Fun Run/Walk. MCF's donation was almost half of the grand total raised, more than \$1,122. The facility received special recognition at the closing business meeting and a plaque which will be hung at the facility. Both the facility's PLUS Unit and the American Legion Post 555 donated a portion of the money raised. Sergeant Larry King challenged MCF staff to raise \$1,000 for the cause stating he would wear a dress at the annual Fun Run/Walk if it was done. Since the money was raised, King sported a dress at the festivities.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff said goodbye and good luck to Sergeant Jack Harney. Sergeant Harney proudly served the Department for nearly 32 years, working at the Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) before transferring to WVCF in 1992. During a retirement reception in his honor, Superintendent Richard Brown said Sergeant Harney's commitment to the IDOC and WVCF has been exemplified by his diverse service. He was the first Wabash Valley training instructor, served as a CADRE, sergeant and most recently supervised operations in the armory. IDOC Executive Director of Public Safety Michael Osburn was among the many wishing Jack the very best upon his retirement.

Pendleton Correctional Facility is pleased to announce the promotion of Hubert Duncan to the facility's Chief Internal Affairs Officer. Known by his co-workers as Duncan, he began his career in July 1996 at the Correctional Industrial Facility where he served in several capacities, including correctional officer, sergeant, lieutenant and Internal Affairs Officer 4. In April of 2011, Duncan transferred to Pendleton.

Sergeant Pat Gibson from the Correctional Industrial Facility was awarded a scholarship during the ICJA conference by ICJA board member Kelly Bittorf. Sergeant Gibson is an eight year member of ICJA. Sergeant Gibson is attending Oakland City University and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice.